

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Community trees provide benefits.
But what are they worth? See page 4.*

Coordinator's Column

Idaho's Community Forests Receive \$1 Million in Stimulus Funds!

Up to a dozen Idaho cities will soon start significant public tree maintenance projects with the help of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. During a brief, one-week window last February, state forestry agencies were asked to prepare and submit proposals for ARRA, or "stimulus" funding. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) submitted 23 project proposals that, if funded, could be initiated quickly, help retain or create jobs in areas hardest hit by the recession, and which addressed priority resource needs. Regional U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff ranked proposals submitted by states, based in part on local unemployment statistics in project areas and the value of the work. These were forwarded to the USFS Washington Office where a similar prioritization was done nationally, and final projects selected.

Two of our four urban forestry project proposals were in the final selections for about a half million dollars each. The target areas of the state were among those hardest hit by the recession—Ada/Canyon Counties and Kootenai/ Bonner Counties.

ARRA funds will be passed through as sub-grants to targeted cities in these two areas. Eligible cities must have a professional forester or ISA Certified Arborist on staff who will oversee the work, and either a public tree inventory or other method of prioritizing and tracking tree work. These criteria ensure that cities of all sizes can qualify, but focus on those that have initiated these basic steps of a community forest management program. We are currently working with these cities on completion of proposals and anticipate work will begin soon. Once sub-grant agreements are finalized, a list of the recipient cities will be announced.

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continued on page 2



Chris Wiersema

Gary and LaRee Hammer, members of the Shelley Tree Committee, accept the first annual Legacy of Leaves Award from the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association. Gerry Bates, Community Forestry Assistant (right), made the presentation.

Shelley Wins 'Legacy of Leaves' Award

The City of Shelley won the first annual Legacy of Leaves Award for the best use of Arbor Day grant money in Idaho. The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) presented this new award during the Horticulture Expo in January. The award program is a partnership between INLA and the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program. Funding comes from donations provided by Avista Power, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power.

Shelley received the award based on criteria used to determine which communities make the best use of the \$300 grants that are given throughout the state. The criteria are: (1) the dollar amount leveraged with the grant funds, (2) uniqueness of the Arbor Day celebration, and (3) support by local volunteers. Shelley spent nearly \$1,300 on its celebration that featured trees being planted in the city park. Despite driving rain that bordered on snow, the holiday enjoyed the enthusiastic support of Boy Scouts of America, the Shelley Tree Committee and a host of other local residents and businesses.

The new award is named Legacy of Leaves to recognize the contribution that trees make to the communities in which they are planted. The Arbor Day grant program has been a popular and successful way to not only promote Arbor Day and tree planting, but also to foster stronger relationships between communities and their green industry businesses.

tracted to perform the work will retain employees they may otherwise have had to lay off, and to hire new staff to complete this work. Another goal is a healthier, safer and more valuable community forest resource. Work will focus on priority tree maintenance needs, addressing public safety concerns first.

Altogether, IDL submitted 23 project proposals requesting more than \$16 million and received more than \$5 million for seven of these. The majority of these proposals were for hazard fuels mitigation and forest health improvement projects that address critical forest resource needs while helping maintain and create jobs in Idaho.

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry
Coordinator

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
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Boise Awarded an 'Anne Frank Tree' Sapling

Amy Herzfeld, executive director of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, was delighted to receive the following notification recently:

Congratulations on being one of only eleven recipients of the sapling of The Anne Frank tree, the horse-chestnut tree in the city center of Amsterdam that was featured in Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl. This tree is a so-called white horse chestnut tree – Aesculus hippocastanum.

The parent tree helped provide solace to young Anne Frank as she hid with her family from the Nazis in occupied Holland. Once she wrote in her diary, "From my favorite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appear-



Evert Elzinga/Associated Press

This aged horsechestnut in Amsterdam was a rare connection to nature for Anne Frank as she and her family hid for two years during World War II. How she must have longed to be able to take her own advice found later in her diary: "The best remedy for those who are afraid, alone or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God."

ing like silver, and at the sea gulls and other birds as they glide on the wind." The old tree is now nearing the end of its life, so the Anne Frank Center in New York offered saplings on a competitive basis to organizations nationwide. City forester Brian Jorgenson

helped write the compelling application that resulted in Boise being awarded one of the precious progeny of the Anne Frank Tree. The sapling is currently in quarantine for three years at a Maryland nursery to assure that it carries no disease.

Changes Announced in Advisory Council

The Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council is a group of Idaho citizens—appointed by the IDL director—that advises the department on program needs, priorities and direction, and plays a critical role in helping improve program effectiveness. The council represents organizations and professions that play key roles in the health of our urban and community forests. Members are appointed for 3-year terms, with an option of reappointment.

Leaving the council after faithful service is Doug Russell (The Land Group in Boise) who represented the Idaho/Montana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Doug served on the Council

beginning in 2004. For the past two years he served as chair, helping to guide the council and the urban forestry program through a period of transition. Also departing is Jerry Stallsmith (consulting urban forester from Boise). Jerry was city forester for Boise at the time he joined the Council in 2004 and provided a wealth of knowledge about all things urban forestry.

Joining the council, and broadening its scope of representation are: Tim Kastning, owner of Grace Tree Service in Rathdrum; Lisa Key, economic development director for the City of Hayden; Ken Knock, parks director for the City of Ammon; Michelle Pak, planner for the City of Pocatello; and

Craig Westling, line clearing specialist for Idaho Power.

Continuing members are: John Bernardo, owner of Sustainable Innovations in Boise (Chair); Bill Moore, coordinator for the SW Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council (Vice-Chair); Ann Bates, executive director of the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association; Jim Fazio, professor emeritus, University of Idaho; Gene Gray, Tree City USA representative from Payette; and David Kiesig, horticulture instructor at the College of Southern Idaho.

Please feel free to contact any member of the council about urban forestry issues in your area of the state.

Enter National Poster Contest NOW

The rules and dates are different for entering 5th graders in the Arbor Day Foundation's popular poster contest. Applications are now online and the deadline for submissions is March 12, 2010. Gerry Bates, community forestry assistant, is our state contest coordinator. The theme this year is "Trees are Terrific... and Energy Wise!" The online material includes information about trees, suggestions for age-appropriate educational activities, art guidelines and everything you need to know about applying. There are excellent prizes with winners at both the state and national level, and the contest is open to public, private and home schools. For information, visit: arborday.org/kids/postercontest.

Tree Planting Grants Awarded for 2010

Nine Idaho communities will benefit from Community Transportation Enhancement grants provided by the Idaho Transportation Department through the Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program. One additional grant is pending. Unfortunately, due to current economic conditions, this is the last year – at least for awhile – that these grants will be available. The funds are used for planting along streets, roads and bikeways. Matching funds from the communities are shown in parentheses.

Boise	\$12,620 (\$5,469)	Idaho Falls	\$2,690 (\$2,261)
Coeur d'Alene	\$6,465 (\$5,952)	Marsing	\$27,350 (\$4,277)
Donnelly	\$29,950 (\$21,774)	New Meadows	\$4,675 (\$6,126)
Garden City	\$22,165 (\$8,322)	Sandpoint	\$21,000 (\$58,107)
Hailey	\$30,000 (\$55,102)		

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), Aerial Lift Specialist (ALS) and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

- March 6 – Boise, ID (CA, ALS)²
- April 17 – Spokane, ID (CA)²
- May 20 – Orem, UT (CA)¹
- June 5 – Lewiston, ID (CA)²
- June 5 – Twin Falls, ID (CA)²
- September 25 – Pocatello, ID (CA)²
- November 14 – Logan, UT (CA)¹

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

Calendar–Winter/ Spring 2010

January 27 – April 28

Maintaining Urban Landscapes Workshop Series—Lewiston, ID. (Sponsored by University of Idaho Extension, Washington State University Extension and the City of Lewiston. Phone (208) 746-6857 or visit www.cityoflewiston.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1393).

- Feb 10 – **Trees, Soils, and Water**
- Feb 17 – **Tree Selection**
- Feb 24 – **Tree Nutrition and Fertilization**
- Mar 10 – **Pruning**
- Mar 17 – **Tree Support and Protection**
- Mar 24 – **Diagnosis and Plant Disorders**
- Mar 31 – **Management of Tree Disorders**
- Apr 7 – **Installation and Establishment**
- Apr 14 – **Tree Assessment and Risk**
- Apr 21 – **Trees and Construction**
- Apr 28 – **Climbing Techniques**

February 20 – April 17

Spring Arborists Series—Orem, UT. (Sponsored by Utah Chapter, ISA. Contact Lisa at (801) 446-8229 or Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com or visit www.utahurbanforest.org/2010_Spring_Arborist_Series.pdf).

- Feb 20 – **Tree Biology and Water Management**
- Mar 20 – **Tree Nutrition, Fertilization, Diagnosis & Plant Disorders, Plant Health Care**
- Apr 17 – **Pruning, Safety, Construction, Tree Assessment & Risk Mgmt., Climbing & Working in Trees**

February 24

Intro to Risk Tree Identification—Richland, WA. (Pacific Northwest Chapter of ISA Contact twerner@ci.richland.wa.us, phone (509) 942-7501 or 942-7526 or visit <http://wa02richlandfeb24.eventbrite.com/?ref=ecal>).

February 24-25

Tree Hazard/Tree Appraisal Workshop—Provo, UT. (Utah Chapter, ISA. Contact Lisa at (801) 446-8229 or Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com).

April 30 ARBOR DAY

Urban Natural Resources Institute Webcasts

These are free, 1-hour seminars you can watch and participate in from your computer. Go to www.unri.org/webcasts/ for more information.

- Feb 18 – **Ice Storm Preparedness**
- Mar 18 – **Watershed Resources & Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
- Apr 15 – **Resources & Tools for Green Communities**
- May 20 – **i-Tree ver. 3.0 Update**
- June 17 – **Aggregating Benefits Calculator**



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Tree tip

Help is at Your Fingertips

As communities decide to begin a care and management program for their trees, or they want to upgrade the one they have, there are two questions often heard: (1) How can I get a look at tree ordinances in other communities, and (2) how can I show people the practical value of community trees? Help is available two ways. One is to contact a community forestry assistant listed in the masthead on page 2. The other is self-help:

- You will find plenty of examples from all over the country by entering “tree ordinances” in your favorite search engine.



- For empirical information about tree benefits based on data from your area, go to: www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr. Navigate to “Our Products,” then “Tree Guides.” Depending on where you live in Idaho, you will be amazed at the information found in one of the three online publications: *Interior West Tree Guide*, *Temperate Interior West Tree Guide*, or *Northern Mountains and Plains Tree Guide*.